

# **THE HYPOTHETICAL**

A One-Act Play by Jon Bramnick

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### CHARACTERS

JON: Age 67, a funny white male and a Republican.

CRAIG: Age 62, a low-key white male and a Democrat. He's in charge.

### SETTING

The floor of a state legislature in a medium-sized northeastern blue state.

THE HYPOTHETICAL

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

(Lights up: JON is standing at a desk in his chamber. He's hunched over since the microphone is about a foot below where he needs it to be.)

JON

One of the most important issues when people vote is privacy. People have raised the issue that when you actually fill out a ballot and you sign it – someone must open it and possibly review it and record what your vote is. I understand there's some safeguards involved, but still, it does not compare to the privacy of a voting booth where from my understanding it's a hundred percent private.

So, I'll present a hypothetical. Let's assume, Mr. Speaker, that that tonight when you watch the fourth or third night of the Republican National Convention, you decide that --- Trump's your man. (*Offstage laughter.*)

Assume the following...

CRAIG

My hypothetical, huh?

JON

You can have a second hypothetical. Here's my question. The hypothetical is you now get your paper ballot. You know that the Clerk of Middlesex County has the opportunity or possibility of now looking at your ballot. Would you feel either intimidated? Would there be a chilling effect on you because of the lack of privacy? And would that possibly effect how you would vote, Sir?

CRAIG

Uh, so since the question was asked of me, uh, I guess – and in that scenario, having lost my mind (*Offstage laughter.*) I would complete that process and not feel intimidated to vote as I, uh, as I had wanted.

JON

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.